Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 5, 18, and 38. Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1. (Original) A method for verifying a voucher or token, comprising:

recording a code associated with the voucher or token;

scanning the voucher or token to retrieve the code at a cashier's station;

querying a voucher or token database for information associated with the code; and

determining whether the voucher or token is valid, using the information, wherein the cashier's station uses a first communication link coupled to a back room computer, but the querying step uses a second communication link different from the first communication link.

2. (Original) A method for verifying a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 1, further including the step of:

providing a coin counting mechanism which is configured to receive, all at once, a plurality of randomly oriented coins of multiple denominations and other objects, discriminate the coins and output the voucher or token for an amount related to the value of the coins.

3. (Original) A method for verifying a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

the scanning step is performed with a recognition subsystem.

4. (Original) A method for verifying a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

the recording step includes recording a value associated with the code.

5. (Currently amended) <u>A method for verifying a voucher or token, comprising:</u>~~A method for verifying a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:~~

<u>recording a code associated with the voucher or token;</u>

scanning the voucher or token to retrieve the code at a cashier's station;

querying a voucher or token database for information associated with the code, wherein the querying step includes querying a kiosk which includes at least a portion of the voucher or token database; and

determining whether the voucher or token is valid, using the information, wherein the cashier's station uses a first communication link coupled to a back room computer, but the querying step uses a second communication link different from the first communication link.

6.   (Original)   A method for verifying a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 5, wherein:

the recording step is performed in a remote location from the kiosk.

7.   (Original)   A method for verifying a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

the querying step includes querying a control center which includes at least a portion of the voucher or token database.

8.   (Original)   A method for verifying a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

the querying step is performed by a recognition subsystem.

9.   (Original)   A method for verifying a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

the voucher or token includes at least one of a magnetic strip, a bar code or a smartcard.

10.   (Original)   A method for verifying a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

the voucher or token is at least one of a phone card, a gift certificate, a mass transit pass, a travel ticket, a financial instrument and an event ticket.

11.   (Original)   A method for verifying a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 1, further including the step of:

printing the voucher or token.

12.   (Original)   A method for verifying a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 1, further including the step of:

counting coins with a coin counting mechanism in a kiosk, wherein at least a part of the database is located in the kiosk.

13.   (Original) A system which verifies a voucher or token, comprising:

a cashier's station which uses a first communication link with a back room computer;

a voucher or token database which stores at least one of a code and a value associated with the voucher or token;

a recognition subsystem which reads the code from the voucher or token; and

first and second transceivers which form a second communication link, different from the first communication link, wherein the second communication link couples together the voucher or token database and the recognition subsystem.

14.   (Original)   A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 13, wherein:

the code associated with a voucher or token is unique.

15.   (Original)   A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 13, wherein:

the voucher or token database stores a value associated with the voucher or token.

16.   (Original)   A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 13, wherein:

the transceivers communicate with at least one of the following techniques: wireless, carrier current, data over telephone voice systems and direct-wired communication.

17.   (Original)   A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 13, further comprising:

a modem coupled to the recognition subsystem for electronic verification of the voucher or token.

18.   (Currently amended)   A system which verifies a voucher or token, the system comprising:A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 13, further comprising:

a cashier's station which uses a first communication link with a back room computer;

a voucher or token database which stores at least one of a code and a value associated with the voucher or token;

a kiosk which includes a coin counting mechanism, and wherein at least a part of the voucher or token database is located in the kiosk;

a recognition subsystem which reads the code from the voucher or token; and

first and second transceivers which form a second communication link, different from the first communication link, wherein the second communication link couples together the voucher or token database and the recognition subsystem.

19.   (Original)   A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 13, wherein:

the system is not coupled to a point of sale system.

20.   (Original) A system which verifies a voucher or token, comprising:

means for recording a code associated with the voucher or token;

means for scanning the voucher or token to retrieve the code at a cashier's station;

means for querying a voucher or token database for information associated with the code; and

means for determining whether the voucher or token is valid, using the information, wherein the cashier's station uses a first communication link coupled to a back room computer, but the querying means uses a second communication link different from the first communication link.

21. (Original) A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 20, further comprising:

a coin counting mechanism which is configured to receive, all at once, a plurality of randomly oriented coins of multiple denominations and other objects, discriminate the coins and output the voucher or token for an amount related to the value of the coins.

22. (Original) A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 20, wherein:

the scanning means includes a recognition subsystem.

23. (Original) A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 20, wherein:

the recording means includes a second means for recording a value associated with the code.

24. (Original) A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 20, wherein:

the querying means includes a second means for querying a kiosk which includes at least a portion of the voucher or token database.

25. (Original) A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 24, wherein:

the recording means is located in a remote location from the kiosk.

26. (Original) A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 20, wherein:

the querying means includes a second means for querying a control center which includes at least a portion of the voucher or token database.

27. (Original) A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 20, wherein:

the querying means includes a recognition subsystem.

28. (Original) A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 20, wherein:

the voucher or token includes at least one of a magnetic strip and a bar code.

29. (Original) A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 20, wherein:

the voucher or token is at least one of a phone card, a gift certificate, a mass transit pass, a travel ticket, a financial instrument and an event ticket.

30. (Original) A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 20, further comprising:

means for printing the voucher or token.

31. (Original) A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 20, further comprising:

means for counting coins with a coin counting mechanism in a kiosk, wherein at least a part of the database is located in the kiosk.

32. (Original) A method for verifying the validity of vouchers or tokens, comprising:

recording a code and a value associated with the voucher or token;

reading the voucher or token to retrieve the code at a cashier's station;

determining the value associated with the code; and

redeeming the value associated with the code, wherein the cashier's station uses a first communication link coupled to a back room computer, but the determining step uses a second communication link different from the first communication link.

33. (Original) A method for verifying the validity of vouchers or tokens, as claimed in Claim 32, wherein:

the code contains at least a modem number of an issuing kiosk.

34. (Original) A method for verifying the validity of vouchers or tokens, as claimed in Claim 32, wherein:

the code is related to at least one of a printed voucher or token or a preexisting card.

35. (Original) A method for verifying the validity of vouchers or tokens, as claimed in Claim 32, further comprising the step of:

recording a residual value associated with the code after the redeeming step.

36. (Original) A method for verifying the validity of vouchers or tokens, as claimed in Claim 32, wherein:

the reading step is performed with at least one of a card reader, a smartcard reader and a bar code scanner.

37. (Original) A method for verifying the validity of vouchers or tokens, comprising:

recording a value associated with the voucher or token;

reading the voucher or token to retrieve the value at a cashier's station;

verifying the value associated with the voucher or token; and

redeeming the value associated with the code, wherein the cashier's station uses a first communication link coupled to a back room computer, but the verifying step uses a second communication link different from the first communication link.

38.   (Currently amended) A method for verifying the validity of vouchers or tokens, the method comprising:

a step for purchasing merchandise at a cashier's station which uses a first communication link with a back room computer;

a step for storing, in a database, at least one of a code and a value associated with the a voucher or token; and

a step for reading the code from the voucher or token using a recognition subsystem; and

a step for verifying the at least one of the code and the value using a second communication link, wherein the second communication link couples together the database and the recognition subsystem.

39.   (Original) A method for verifying the validity of vouchers or tokens, as claimed in Claim 38, wherein:

the recognition subsystem is located at the cashier's station.

40.   (Original) A system which verifies a voucher or token, comprising:

a cashier's station which uses a first communication link with a back room computer;

a voucher or token database which stores a code and a value associated with the voucher or token wherein the code associated with a voucher or token is unique;

a recognition subsystem which reads the code from the voucher or token;

a modem coupled to the recognition subsystem for electronic verification of the voucher or token; and

first and second transceivers which form a second communication link, wherein the second communication link couples together the voucher or token database and the recognition subsystem.

41.   (Original)   A system which verifies a voucher or token, as claimed in Claim 25, further comprising:

a kiosk which includes a coin counting mechanism and wherein at least a part of the voucher or token database is located in the kiosk.

42.   (Cancelled)